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MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Oversight Committee Members
Local CFAC Chairs
NC Council of Community Programs
County Managers
State Facility Directors
LME Board Chairs
Advocacy Organizations
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations
Commission for MH/DD/SAS
State CFAC
NC Assoc. of County Commissioners
County Board Chairs
LME Directors
DHHS Division Directors
Provider Organizations
NC Assoc. of County DSS Directors

FROM: Dr. Craig L. Gray
Leza Wainwright 

SUBJECT: Special Implementation Update #74: Selection of the Next LME to Participate in the 1915b/c Medicaid Waiver

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is pleased to announce that Mecklenburg County Area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority has been selected to be the next Local Management Entity (LME) to participate in the State's Medicaid Waiver for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services. The waiver is commonly known as the 1915 b/c waiver in reference to the sections of the Social Security Act that authorize such waivers.

Mecklenburg was selected through a formal procurement process. Four (4) LMEs initially responded to a Request for Application to be considered for participation. In addition to Mecklenburg, the LMEs that applied were East Carolina Behavioral Health, Sandhills Center for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, and the Western Highlands Network. DHHS appointed a ten-person Review Team comprised of staff from the Divisions of Medical Assistance and Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and consumers and family members. The Review Team, with assistance from Mercer Government Human Services Consulting, performed a thorough desk review of all applications and conducted on-site reviews at the three (3) LMEs that scored well in the desk review. It was through this process that Mecklenburg was selected as the LME that best demonstrated the skills, ability, and infrastructure necessary to successfully implement and manage a 1915 b/c waiver. We would like to express our appreciation to all

four (4) LMEs that applied and to give special thanks to those LMEs' Consumer and Family Advisory Committees, who were actively involved in this application and selection process.

DHHS will now work with Mecklenburg and all stakeholders in the Mecklenburg area to plan a successful implementation. We will be assisted in this effort by PBH, the LME serving Cabarrus, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties, that has been operating a 1915 b/c waiver successfully for five (5) years. Implementation in Mecklenburg County is scheduled for January 1, 2011. Updates regarding this effort will be posted on our Divisions' websites at: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/waiver/index.htm> and <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/lme/MHWAiver.htm>

Unless noted otherwise, please email any questions related to this Implementation Update to ContactDMH@dhhs.nc.gov.

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